AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Replace the claims with the following rewritten versions:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for ~~the~~ formation of small particles of a certain substance, the device ~~including~~comprising

–first inlet means ~~(4)~~ for a solution or a suspension containing the substance,

–second inlet means ~~(3)~~ for an atomizing agent

–mixing means ~~(12)~~ for mixing said solution/suspension and said atomizing agent,

–outlet means ~~(13)~~ for the particles,

–first conduit means ~~(9, 10)~~ from the first inlet means ~~(4)~~ to the mixing means (12), and

–second conduit means ~~(14, 11)~~ from the second inlet means ~~(3)~~ to the mixing means ~~(12)~~, which first ~~(9, 10)~~ and second ~~(14, 11)~~ conduit means meet each other at the mixing means ~~(12)~~ at an angle of at least 30°~~, preferably at least 45°, and most preferably at least 90°~~, ~~characterized in~~ that~~wherein~~ the device ~~includes~~ comprises a first part ~~(1)~~ having a first wall ~~(7)~~ and a second part ~~(2)~~ having a second wall ~~(6)~~, the walls forming an interspace between each other, said mixing means ~~(12)~~ being formed by said interspace and ~~in that~~ at least one of said walls ~~(6, 7)~~ is movable such that ~~the~~ a width of said interspace is adjustable.

2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said at least one movable wall ~~(7)~~ is movable to and from the other wall ~~(6)~~.

3 (Currently Amended) A device ~~accordingly~~according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said movable wall ~~(7)~~ is urged towards the other wall ~~(6)~~ by biasing means.

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said biasing means is a mechanical spring.

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~anyone of~~ claims 1~~-4~~, ~~**characterized in that**~~wherein said first ~~(4)~~ and second ~~(3)~~ inlet means extend through the first part ~~1~~ and the first inlet means ~~(4)~~ and the first conduit means ~~(9, 10)~~ extend through said second part ~~(2)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~anyone of~~ claims 1~~-5~~, ~~**characterized in that**~~wherein said interspace constitutes the second conduit means ~~(14, 11)~~, the mixing means ~~(12)~~ and the outlet means ~~(13)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any of~~ claims 1~~-6~~, ~~**characterized in that**~~ wherein the second inlet means ~~(3)~~ includes a straight elongated portion, the ~~centre~~ center of which defines ~~the centre~~a center axis of the device and ~~in that~~ said second conduit means ~~(14, 11)~~ includes an end section ~~(11)~~ connected to the mixing means ~~(12)~~, the end section forming an angle of at least 30° to ~~the~~ ends of the device~~, preferably at least 45° and most preferably about 90°~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 7, ~~**characterized in that**~~wherein said end section ~~(11)~~ at least partly is defined by said first and second walls ~~(7, 6)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 8, ~~**characterized in that**~~wherein said walls ~~(7, 6)~~ are planar walls.

10. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~anyone of~~ claims 7~~-9~~, ~~**characterized in that**~~wherein said end section ~~(11)~~ has an angular extension of 360° around said axis.

11. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 7~~-10~~, ~~**characterized in that**~~wherein said first conduit means ~~(9, 10)~~ has an end portion ~~(10)~~ connected to said mixing means ~~(12)~~, said end portion ~~(10)~~ extending in a direction of which ~~the~~ a main component is axial.

12. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 7~~—11~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~the~~ a direction of said end section~~(11)~~ is substantially radial and ~~the~~ a direction of said end portion ~~(10)~~ is substantially axial.

13. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said end portion ~~(10)~~ is constituted by an elongated slot.

14. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said elongated slot forms a closed loop~~, preferably a circular loop~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 11~~—14~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said end portion ~~(10)~~ terminates in one of said walls ~~(6)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1~~—15~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said outlet means ~~(13)~~ is aligned with said second conduit means ~~(14, 11)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1~~—16~~, ~~characterized in that~~**wherein** the first ~~(4)~~ and second ~~(3)~~ inlet means are coaxial, the second inlet means ~~(3)~~ enclosing the first inlet means ~~(4)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1~~—17~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said second conduit means ~~(14,11)~~ includes a chamber ~~(14)~~ in which the second inlet means ~~(3)~~ terminates.

19. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~anyone of~~ claims 1~~–18~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said second inlet means ~~(3)~~ is adapted for a gaseous atomizing agent.

20. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~anyone of~~ claims 1~~-18~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said second inlet means ~~(3)~~ is adapted for a liquid atomizing agent.

21. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1~~-20~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said second inlet means ~~(3)~~ is adapted for an atomizing agent at supercritical stage.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the~~ formation of small particles of a certain substance, the method ~~including the steps of~~comprising

–supplying a jet of an atomizing agent to a mixing area,

–supplying a liquid jet of a solution or a suspension containing the substance to the mixing area, and

- withdrawing a jet of said particles from the mixing area,

the jet of the atomizing agent and the liquid jet being supplied such that they meet each other in the mixing area at an angle in the range of 30^0 to 150^o~~, preferably in the range of 45^o to 135^o~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said jets are supplied to a mixing area formed by an interspace located between a first wall on a first part of a device and a second wall of a second part of the device and ~~in that~~wherein the width of said interspace is adjustable.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the jet of the atomizing agent is a gaseous jet.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the jet of the atomizing agent is a liquid jet.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the~~ claims ~~21–~~ 22, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the jet of the atomizing agent is a medium at supercritical state.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 22~~–25~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said angle is about 90°.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 22~~–26~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the jet of the atomizing agent is supplied and the particle jet is withdrawn in such a way that these jets are substantially aligned.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 22~~–27~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the atomizing agent is supplied to a cavity from which said gas jet is created.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a jet of the atomizing agent of 360° is created.

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 22~~–29~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the jet of the solution/suspension is created to form an elongated jet.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 30, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the solution/
suspension jet is created to form a closed loop~~, preferably a circular loop~~.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 22~~–31~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the method is performed with ~~the~~ aid of a device according to ~~any one of~~ claims
1~~–21~~.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the~~A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 22~~–32 for~~, further comprising forming said particles of a size in the range of 0,05 – 10 μm~~, preferably in the range of 0,05 – 1μm~~.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the~~A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 22~~—32 for~~, further comprising forming said particles ~~of~~ for a pharmaceutical substance.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the~~A device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1~~—21 for forming~~, configured to form said particles of a size in the range of 0,05 – 10 μm~~; preferably in the range of 0,05—1 μm~~.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the~~A device according to ~~any of~~ claims 1~~—21 for forming~~, configured to form said particles ~~of~~ for a pharmaceutical substance.

37. (Currently Amended) Particles obtained by the method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 22~~—32~~.